



Harvest Hounds

Mary Mazzeri
136 Golfview Lane
Carpentersville, IL 60110-2366
847 426 5089
e-mail: caredog@megsinet.net
(Web site under construction)

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Dear FDA Representatives,

CANADA REJECTED RBGH - WHY NOT U.S.?

On January 14, Canada's Health Department rejected the approval of the recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone - a drug injected into cattle to increase milk production. Health Canada rejected rBGH on animal health grounds, citing evidence that treated animals have a 25% higher rate of udder infections, an 18% higher rate of infertility, and a 50% increase in lameness. The approval process was full of controversy, with Canadian government officials accusing rBGH-maker Monsanto of trying to bribe them with offers of \$1 to \$2 million

This has raised questions about the safety of using rBGH in the US - where it has been approved since late 1993. While looking at test data on rBGH, Health Canada researchers found that between 20 and 30 percent of rats administered rBGH were developing distinct immunological reactions. Cysts were forming in the thyroid of some male rats and had infiltrated the prostate.

The Center for Food Safety filed a legal petition with you in December, requesting you to reverse your approval of rBGH and to have it pulled from the market. Human health concerns involving rBGH include increased exposure to antibiotics in milk. (Cows injected with rBGH have higher rates of udder infections which are treated by antibiotics.) Additional concerns involve the insulin-like growth factor (IGF-1), which appears in elevated levels in rBGH-milk and has been linked to higher rates of cancer. As the American Medical Association said in a statement recently, "The science on the effects of oral ingestion of IGF-1 is incomplete."

PLEASE RESCIND THE APPROVAL OF RBGH IN THE U.S per docket # 98P-1194. I support the Center's lawsuit calling for the removal of rBGH from the market given the human and animal health concerns cited above.

Sincerely,

Dr & Mrs. Gary Mazzeri

98P-1194

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